

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested, in view of the following remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended by inserting the term "single" between the phrases "wherein at least two of said pasta layers are provided by a" and "rectangular pasta sheet extending around the remaining layers of the product." Support for the amendment may be found on page 3 (lines 2-5) of the specification and in figures 5 and 6. Claim 1 has been further amended by inserting the wording "in a pan with pellets of sauce" at the end of the claim, support for which may be found on page 3 (lines 28-30) of the specification. Independent claim 6 has been amended accordingly.

SirRedhawk discloses a fresh spinach lasagne prepared by spreading one third of a tomato and mushroom sauce over the bottom of a baking dish and then placing several strips of pasta which cover the bottom and hang over the sides of the baking dish. SirRedhawk further discloses that the several strips of pasta will later fold over the top of the lasagne to seal in the fillings. Claim 1 is distinguished over SirRedhawk in that it recites:

1. A frozen pasta product;
2. A frozen pasta product weighing less than 75 gms;
3. A frozen pasta product wherein in at least two of said pasta layers are provided by a single rectangular pasta sheet extending around the remaining layers of the product and sealed along two opposing surfaces; and
4. A frozen pasta product wherein the integrity of the pasta product is maintained on reheating in a pan with pellets of sauce.

Freezing Lasagne disclosing a lasagne which is baked and frozen.

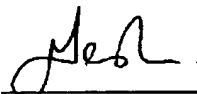
Nilsson discloses a frozen lasagne of from 40-60 gms.

Thus even if all three of the foregoing prior art documents are combined, the Office has still not established a prima facie case of obviousness because the combination of the aforesaid documents does not teach or disclose all the elements of claim 1, specifically elements (3) and (4). Thus we assert that the subject matter of claim 1 is inventive in view of the combination of *SirRedhawk*, *Frozen Lasagne* and *Nilsson*.

The same reasoning can be applied to the remaining claims and thus applicants assert that the subject matter of dependent claims 2 to 4 and independent claim 6 is also inventive in view of the same combination of documents.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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